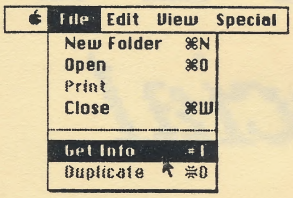
VMUG
VICTORIA MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

Victoria Macintosh Users Group

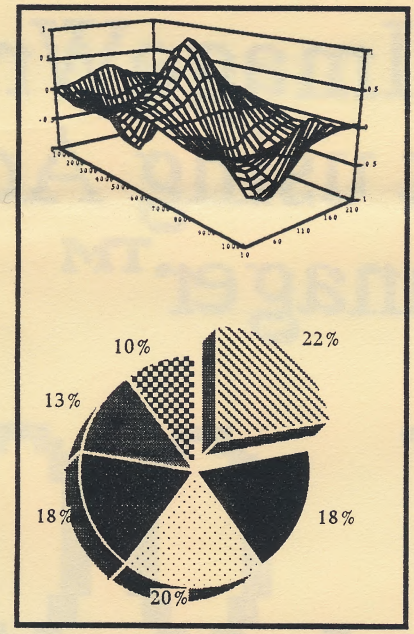
29 items | 185 K in Newsletter | Last modified December '89



by John A. Kilbank

This column will review new and improved software packages. I will try to focus on rare or uncommon packages which are worthy of attention. If you have a piece of software which you would like to see reviewed, or you have one which you would like to review for the other members of the User's Group, please feel free to contact myself or the editor.

This month we'll examine a new release from a company called DeltaPoint, Inc. of Monterey, California. The program is called DeltaGraph v1.0, and it is perhaps the best new entrant into the graphing market in a long time.



DeltaGraph support 15 standard graph types (including the usual Column, Pie, Line and Scattergrams), 7 3-dimensional graph types (including Area, Ribbon and Wireframe) and also allows you to define custom graph types. It can support full colour display, and has a reasonably powerful drawing environment for adding details to your graphs.

DeltaGraph can import a variety of file formats (Text, WKS, SYLK, Trapeze and Excel 2.2), and can export (Adobe Illustrator, EPSF, Pict and Text), making it an excellent tool for presentations and reports since its graphs can be opened by Illustrator or Freehand and modified to your heart's content.

Perhaps Delta's most useful feature is the ability to modify the 3-dimensional view of a graph. You can change the Elevation, Rotation, Perspective and Vanishing Point, all in one degree increments. This feature alone is capable of producing some very striking and unusual graphs.

DeltaGraph's main drawback is its limited spreadsheet environment. It's mathematical capabilities are inadequate and hopefully this will be improved in future versions.

DeltaGraph may not be the best, most powerful graphing program on the market, but it is certainly a contender. For this kind of power and flexibility, the $200 price tag is a pleasant surprise, with Excel, Wingz and Full Impact at around $400.

[Ed: When John first sent me the graphics for this article, the one pie-chart was supposed to be 'radially filled', but that didn't translate too well into the PICT format for this article, but having all those ouput options sounds very interesting, maybe more programs will start to offer choices like that.]

Next Month: Prototyper! A Programming Tool for Designing User Interface

⌘.

Adobe Type Manager

Reprinted from MACVISIONS, the Newsletter of the Hawaii Macintosh User Group
by Scott Lum

The Macintosh has always been viewed as one of the best graphics computers, but until recently most people purchased just two printers for it - the Apple ImageWriter and LaserWriter. If you could afford the four thousand dollar price tag, you would have beautiful 300 dpi graphics and fonts, scaleable to your hearts desire. For many of us though, the 72 dpi ImageWriter just had to do. If you chose a font with its correct screen size you got an acceptable printout. However, if you chose a font that was not installed in your system, you would get the dreaded "jaggies".

Now, ImageWriter users can rejoice - enter the Adobe Type Manager. ATM promises to put an end to those jaggies on your screen and your QuickDraw printers. Print out letters over and inch high and say goodbye to those ugly stair-stepped outputs. The ImageWriter can now rival many 24 pin printers. I'll bet

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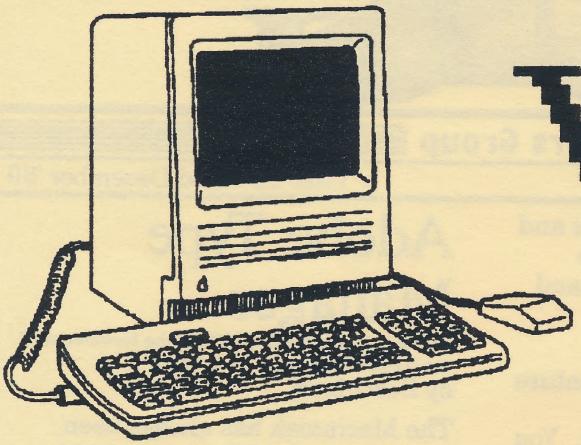

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The President's Corner

by Robin Tamasi

Well deadline time is fast approaching and I haven't got my article done yet! And then there's Christmas just over the horizon.

At the November meeting, Murray Smith from Computer Connection, demonstrated the new HP DeskWriter inkjet printer, Bill Hall, from Byte Computers and also President of MacWest Computer Society in Surrey, gave us a quick overview of MacWest. The rest of the meeting before, between, and after Murray and Bill was mainly business, with me droning on so long that there was hardly any time for the most important part of our meetings, Questions Answers and Tips. Approximately 40 members and guests were in attendance, which is again very encouraging.

Membership Cards where handed out to those present. If you joined at the meeting or you did not attend the last meeting, you should receive your card with this Newsletter. If you did not, your membership has probably expired. Your VMUG Membership Card entitles you to a discount on most purchases at the following retail computer stores: Advantage Computers, Ardvark Software, Bolen Books (on computer books), Byte Computers, Computer Connection, Softa, and Tesseract. So make sure your membership is valid (the discount on one purchase can more than pay for your VMUG Membership). Note that discounts may not apply to sale or to items already discounted, and that it is at the stores discretion as to whether they give a discount or not.

As you can see by the amount of advertising in this issue of the Newsletter, we are getting a great deal of support from the local computer stores, in the form of advertising, discounts, special deals for members, and support in other areas. I would like to urge all members to buy local, they are very keen to get your business and to support you.

We have Konrad Kordoski, a new member at the November meeting, to thank for his enthusiastic efforts in soliciting, pickup, and invoicing for the advertising in this issue.

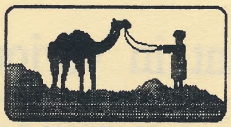
Duart MacLean's article "One Man's View" in the last newsletter was greatly appreciated, I hope more members will follow the example and submit articles. As was discussed at the meeting and by the executive, the small screen certainly is a problem for effective demonstrations at meetings. LCD projection units require a rather large investment, as well as an overhead projector and an interface unit in each Mac that you wish to use it with. Timbukto 3.0 from Farallon Computing is a much less expensive and rather interesting alternative. Basically it allows several Macs connected by LocalTalk (AppleTalk) to observe want is happening on another Macintosh. I have been in contact with Farallon and hope to be able to report something at the next meeting.

The Users Group has been offered the use of a training facility on Saturdays. We would initially like to conduct help and tutorials sessions for new users but we need to know how many people would attend and someone willing to give an hour or two on a Saturday to help new users. More advanced sessions, SIGs, and special guests are also a possibility in the future.

Our December meeting should be a little more fun, we will not have a guest speaker or presentation but will have a short business session, and a help/question and answer session. For more details see the announcement in this newsletter. In the New Year we hope to continue to have presentations of interest to all members, this includes presentation by members. If you have something you have been doing on your Mac at home, work, or business that might be of interests, let's hear from you. You don't need to be an expert! Who is?

In closing I would again like to encourage all members to attend the meetings, you are missing something and we need your participation and input.

Merry Christmas



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Adobe Type Manager (cont'd...)

you've never thought you could get such output on your dot matrix printer - you've just got to see it to believe it.

If great output is not enough, wait until you see large letters on your Macintosh screen. Italic letters are no longer bunched up, large text is readable. The graphic computer just got better.

Okay, so how does it work? Adobe Type Manager is a Control Panel Device that is very easy to install. Just dump its icon from the original disk, along with the Adobe printer fonts you plan on using, into the System Folder. You also need to install one other driver depending on which computer you have - don't worry its all easily explained in the thin 20 page User's Guide. Once installed, ATM works behind the scenes so you can select fonts and font sizes the way you usually do.

Once ATM is up and running you will probably not notice a big difference on screen if you continue to use fonts that have the proper screen sizes for. They will continue to look about the same. Where the program really sizzles is when you select larger or smaller sizes. The text will be scaled so that it is relatively smooth - they look great from six to 127 points when printed from an ImageWriter. However, once you have scaled the text below nine points, the text becomes more difficult to read on screen due to the limitations of the screen resolution.

continued on P. 5...

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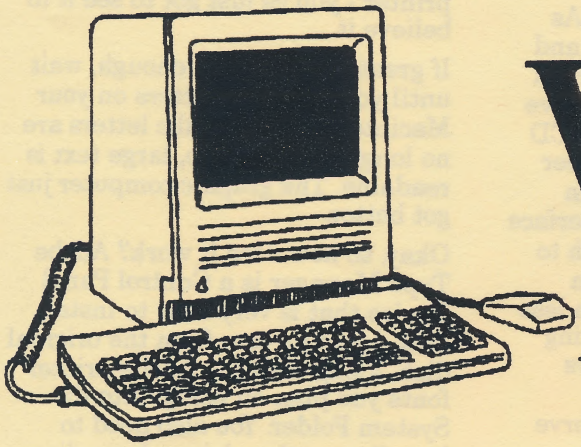

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Bytes & Pieces from the Editor

Well, another month has passed, and only one more response was received from our initial questionnaire in October's VMUG — this is very depressing! **Right now, before you forget, go and dig it out, fill it out, and put it with your Mac and bring both to our next meeting.**

I owe an apology to Gunnar Heiberg, he wrote his Tech's corner last month, and somehow I missed getting it into print, so it appears this month no less appreciated, (and that gives him time to come up with an even better article for our next edition of VMUG).

I have a start on an article on INIT's and CDEV's but Robin just received an article about these, so now you are going to have to wait another month before I have a chance to incorporate that information into my report.

Derek Morris took the time to search the records at the Victoria Public Library, and format the results and pass them along to me for the newsletter — thanks.

As space permits, we will be continuing to include tips from Doug Alderson's file featured last month.

Thanks to John Kilbank for his feedback on the newsletter and his new series 'Get Info...' that promises to be both helpful and informative.

I'm sure that there are many other members out there that have interesting ideas and projects that you could share with the rest of us - it doesn't have to be the cutting edge of high-tech, just something new or interesting that you learned that might help some other (frustrated) user.

During the past year, I gave a demo of Canvas 2.0, and I understand that a number of you were as impressed as I, and have purchased this package. I had a couple of complaints and a number of suggestions, and finally got around to sending them off to Deneba. I received a nice letter informing me that my difficulties were due to a creation date of before 1989. I don't quite understand how version 2.0 was shipped on two different dates, but apparently it was. The letter informed me that version 2.1 update notices were going out that week, so registered users should be getting theirs soon. My suggestions were apparently appreciated and were passed along to the appropriate people for consideration in version 3.0 that is already in the works!

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Give your executive a nice present and provide us with some (written) feedback on your preferences and desires for your club.

Greg

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Adobe Type Manager (cont'd...)

Not only will ATM work with the ImageWriter, but it will also work with a host of other QuickDraw printers. ImageWriter LQ and LaserWriter SC owners no longer have to worry about using the three times font for quality printing. InkJet and non-Postscript laser printers will also be beneficiaries. Now you can get superb 300 dpi output on the HP DeskWriter or HP LaserJet - all at a fraction of the cost of a Postscript printer.

One drawback of ATM is that it slows things down when there is a lot of graphics or large letters involved. If you are just typing a letter or memo there is not much difference in speed, but if you are using several different sizes and fonts in a flier you may notice the screen redraw becomes much slower. One way to speed it up is to increase the program's Font Cache. However, this requires more RAM. So although ATM works fine on a 1MB machine, you may want to increase your RAM to 2.5MB or more if you plan on doing a lot of graphics.

One pleasant surprises of ATM is the smooth fonts you get when using paint programs and presentation packages. I remember the frustration of trying to manipulate a font with SuperPaint, and throwing in the towel because the letters were too jagged to use. Now you can have smooth letters over an inch high, and still go into Fatbits to play with them a bit. Presentation programs that depend on screen output for results will now have letters that are smoother and cleaner.

Adobe Type Manager comes with four Adobe Fonts: Courier, Helvetica, Symbol, and Times. The entire package retails for a mere $98. If you would like more fonts, you can use any other fonts in the Adobe Font Library. At over $100 per font this may not seem like such a terrific deal after all, but Adobe made it a little easier by bundling together seven other type families for just under $200 to make up their Plus Pack. Together, ATM and its Plus Pack make up the same 35 fonts that are built into the LaserWriter II printers.

With Apple's System 7 less than a year away, the scaleable font market is really heating up. Apple and Microsoft are planning to develop a competing font technology that will give the user the same benefits as ATM. However, full rollout is still many months away, and 2MB of RAM may be mandatory. So Adobe has a nice jump on the technology. I'm sure each camp will continue to improve the features in this program making us all the winner.

So if you've written off your ImageWriter, and all you want is a good quality dot matrix printer, pull it out, and revive it with Adobe Type Manager. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Comments: *It is my belief that System 7 will not be available for many many months and even then will not be useable on all Macintosh (needs 2MB) in the meantime why not finally make fuller use your ImageWriter's capability with Adobe Type Manager. Check out the ad elsewhere in this newsletter, for an excellent price on ATM.* Robin

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The PD Folder

There are big changes in the works for the PD library. I've spent approximately 60 hours organizing everything into appropriate categories (i.e. fonts, DA's, utilities, etc.), as well as adding about another 20 megs of new stuff. I've also made arrangements with a few other Mugs to trade new PD/shareware every month, to allow our library to grow.

We will soon have a new cataloging routine that will include a good description of all files listed. Yeah!!

New things to look for in the coming year: a bigger and better selection of PD/shareware, and a copy-fest session every other month if the demand is there., and a disk of the month selection of new stuff or maybe something around a theme (i.e. word processing, system stuff).

Disks of the month for December, are 2 - 800k disks full of Anti-Virus programs, inits, hyperstacks, and text info files, so be sure to bring a couple of disks to the December meeting.

Finally, if anyone that has ANY PD/shareware, a little or a lot, that they think may not be in our library please contact me ASAP, so we can get it into the library while I'm still in the process of organizing. I'll even supply you with disks and pick them up.

Thank you for your support,

Ivan Good, VMUG Librarian

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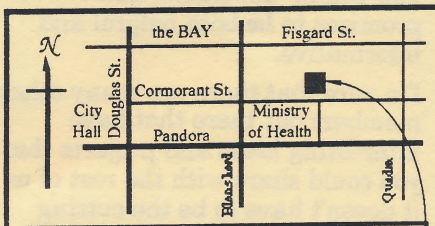

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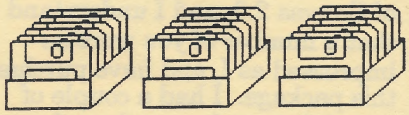

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Gunnar's Corner

The pressure is on; Ivan has put his foot down; the deadline must be met. So, here it is folks - the first in what is hoped to be an on-going series of user-level technical articles.

In this first installment I will answer the question, "What can I do to keep my Macintosh running smoothly?"

It is likely that the majority of you have Mac Pluses, so I will deal with you first. I am sometimes asked whether one should install a fan on the Mac Plus. A fan, such as the Kensington System Saver is not a bad idea; it will minimize the thermal stress which is often a problem in the Mac Plus, and with its switched outlets and surge and spike protection it will also provide you with added convenience and assurance. However with its $150 price tag, you might wonder how long it will take to pay for itself. The most common effect of the thermal stress is cracked soldering on the power supply/video board, resulting in a variety of symptoms including fluctuating width of the image, image collapsed to a vertical line, no video at all, 'glitchy' or jittery image, no power, etcetera. The fix is a simple matter of re-soldering the power/video board and should fall within the minimum charge of the service shop. Once this procedure has been performed it is unlikely that it will ever be required again. The only concern after this is component life; heat does contribute to shortened component life. In the final analysis I leave the decision up to you - a fan is a good idea, but the cost may not justify the benefit.

The second item to consider is your disk drive. Disk-type head cleaners are acceptable for occasional use - no more than once per month, and less for light computer use; the thing to keep in mind is that they are slightly abrasive, so over-use could contribute to shortened drive life. A better alternative is to periodically bring your system to your dealer for a thorough checkout and cleaning. How often depends on your environment and degree of use - old buildings tend to have a lot of dust floating around, especially if you also have forced air heating. If you are in such a building, or if you use your computer heavily, you should have you drives professionally cleaned at least once per year. Replacing an 800k drive costs about $230.00 (parts and labour), so it is worth the expense of taking it in to the service shop on a regular basis if the drive life can be extended.

In spite of regular maintenance and careful use, there are things that can happen to your drive which will require that it be replaced. The most common occurrence is that a copper foil shield around the upper drive head gets bent. Since I am not small enough to get inside a drive and actually observe how this happens I can only speculate that it is probably caused by disks on which the shutter has become a little loose. The clearances inside the drive are very small, so it doesn't take much to cause a problem.

Next month I'll tell you how to keep your Imagewriter going. Beyond then, I'll need your input, so if there are any technical issues you would like me to address contact me directly or forward your questions through the executive.

Gunnar Heiberg
Service Manager
Advantage Computers, Ltd.,
Victoria — 380-9988

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Want Ads

Wanted: We are always looking for bits and pieces of info we can pass on. Questions, tips, rumors, hints, reviews, anything that you'd like to tell other Mac users. Then use your Mac and write it down and pass it along to us at VMUG. All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

For Sale: Mac 512K with external 400K drive, monitor, mouse. Hardware only, $799^{00}, Call Chuck @ 477-1934 evenings - please leave a message.

For Sale: New 60 meg (Seagate) hard-drive, complete with cables & installed. One year warranty. Call Greg @ 479-4011 evenings.

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Submissions on any subject relevant to the Macintosh, or computing in general are welcome. The deadline for submissions and advertising is the 4th Thursday of the month, two weeks after the regular monthly meeting. Contact the Editor directly for details.

Advertising Rates

Full Page	$40.00
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Quarter Page	$10.00
Eighth Page	$5.00
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Victoria Macintosh Users Group

The Victoria Macintosh Users Group is an informal group of people with an interest in the Apple™ Macintosh®. Membership is open to all. Individual or family membership is $20 a year, guests are welcome to sample a meeting or two for $1 per meeting.

VMUG does not condone in any way, the illegal copying of copyright computer programs and will not tolerate such practise at any user group function.

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month, at George G's, 832 Cormorant Street, Victoria. Meetings start at 7:30 PM (19:30).

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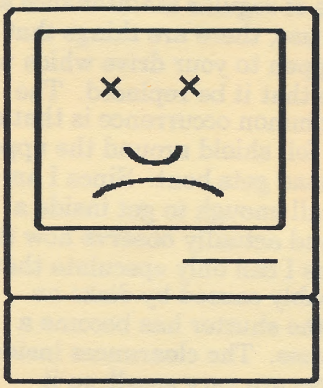
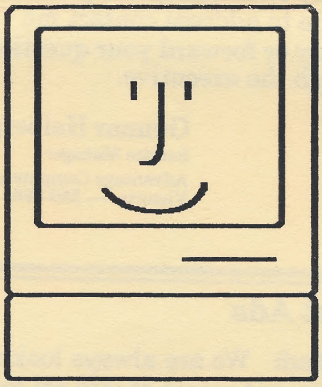
Turn Your MacIntosh From Being a "SAD MAC"



Into a "HAPPY MAC"



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The Victoria Central Library currently has twenty-four books under the search subject "Macintosh computer" distributed as follows:

by Derek V. Morris

Reference Section	Subject	# of
A	Macintosh Computer	6
B	Macintosh Computer program	1
C	Macintosh Computer Programming	17

Ref	#	Author	Title	Date
A	1	Bove, Tony, 1955-	The well-connected Macintosh...	1987
	2	Connolly, Edward S.	Introducing the Apple Macintosh	1984
	3	Lu, Cary, 1945-.	The Apple Macintosh book	1988
	4	Michel, Stephen L.	IBM PC and Macintosh networking	1988
	5	Thompson, Keith.	FullWrite Professional...user's guide	1988
	6	Williams, Gene B.	Chilton's guide to Macintosh repair	1986
B	1	Rardin, Kevin.	Desktop publishing on the Mac...	1986
C	1	Anzovin, Steven.	Compute!'s quick ... guide to Hyp'card	1988
	2	Busch, David D.	Secrets of MacPaint, MacWrite, ...	1986
	3	Eckhardt, Robert C.	Free (and almost free) software for	1987
	4	Goodman, Danny.	The complete HyperCard handbook	1987
	5	Goodman, Danny.	Danny Goodman's HyperCard developer	1988
	6	Hogan, Thom, 1952-.	The programmer's ...Mac sourcebook	1989
	7	Kinata, Chris.	Working with Word : the definitive ...	1988
	8	Knaster, Scott.	How to write Macintosh software	1986
	9	McCarty, S. Michael.	Swing with Jazz : Lotus Jazz...	1985
	10	McClelland, Deke, 1962-	Desktop publishing type & graphics	1987
	11	McComb, Gordon.	Working with Word : Microsoft Word	1988
	12	McLaughlin, J. Richard	Mac ideas	1985
	13	Michel, Stephen L	HyperCard : the complete reference	1989
	14	Salkind, Neil J.	FullWrite professional complete	1988
	15	Sloan, Michael L.	Word power: the complete guide to ...	1989
	16	Sloan, Michael L., 1944-.	Working with Works : a guide to...	1987
	17	Ward, Terry A.	Programming C on the Macintosh	1986

For a more detailed list of the items, see Ivan at the next meeting, and ask for the Victoria Library Mac information file.

The Public Library Search System may be accessed by modem at 388-4944, using 7 data bits 1 stop bit and Odd parity. The voice contact is 382-7241.

[Ed: I experienced some difficulty with my initial connection to the library. I kept getting a # symbol sent back by their computer. That would get entered as the first character of my line, so any commands that I sent were not recognized. I informed them of the problem and haven't been on recently to see if the problem has been corrected, but I did manage to get on by simply pressing the [BACKSPACE/DELETE] key before typing anything on a line.]

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and many more

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White Knight 11.0

White Knight 11.0 is the latest version of what was formally known as Red Ryder. The name change is due to Scott Watson's license to use the Red Ryder trademark running out in the near future and an over-zealous owner wishing to charge a much higher license fee. Rather than pay the ransom and have to raise the price, Scott decided to change the name. (Hurrah for Scott).

According to the Formal Release Notice, "More research and development, and more hours of product testing have gone into White Knight 11 than in all previous versions combined". The minium Macintosh that White Knight appears to run on is a 512KE with a megabyte or more of memory and running System Software Version 6.0.2 or later.

The list of New Features is too numerous to outline here (the release notice is 12 pages long). Hundreds of minor fixes, detail work, and "mini-features" have been added to White Knight, and all reported bugs in Red Ryder 10.3 are apparently eliminated. WK 11 is now fully MultiFinder compatible and friendly, DEC's VT102 terminal emulation is now fully supported, and several new file transfer protocols have been added.

To Upgrade from a previous version of Red Ryder you must send your original master disk along with the appropriate payment in US funds (cheque, money order, VISA, or MasterCard info) to the following address:

The FreeSoft Company
White Knight Update Department
150 Hickory Drive
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

The upgrade charge for registered owners of Red Ryder 10.x is $35, for registered owners of the shareware versions 9.4 and earlier the charge is $50. Don't forget to include shipping charges of $5 for US AirMail, or $19 for Emery Air Freight. Note all chrages are in $US.

For more information download the Release Notice from Advantage BBS.

White Knight 11 is available now at the local computer stores.

Robin

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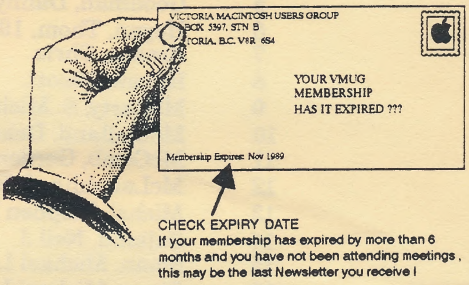

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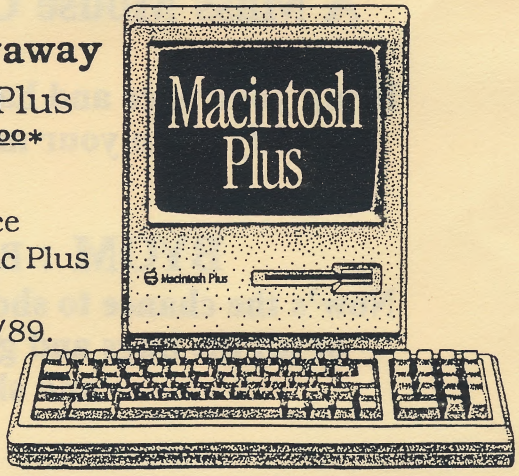

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